

(b) Action for filling of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies are filled primarily through open market recruitment, which is done through Railway Recruitment Boards or by the Zonal Railways themselves. Other vacancies in the promotional grade are however filled through departmental promotions.

Surplus Railway land-bank

551. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has constituted a surplus land-bank subsidiary to manage and develop its surplus land;

(b) to what extent the Railways proposes to utilize the surplus land for captive expansion and commercialization; and

(c) whether goods sheds and sidings lying idle are being leased out to private parties for freight handling and warehousing, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Railways have, however, set up Rail Land Development Authority to undertake all tasks connected with commercial development. The Authority has become functional from 19.1.2007.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The land not needed by Railway for future foreseeable use, will be put to commercial use by the Authority. A policy document for leasing out spare-able Railway land for the development of multimodal logistic parks/rail-side warehouses/stockyards and terminals for handling container trains by private investors is under consideration.

Extension and modernisation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Station

552. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Maharashtra dated 19th September, 2003 had in a communication written to the Union Railway Minister that 20 acres of land exists near the CST railway station and this land should be developed for new terminal on BOT basis;